Admns. The Central Government provides guidelines and formulates various schemes to assist the State Govts. in their efforts. The emphasis has gradually shifted from a policy of slum clearance to that of environmental improvement of urban slums (EIUS) which has been included as Point No 15 of the 20-Point Programme. Funds are made available to the State Government for improving the environmental conditions in urban slums by providing basic infrastructure such as water supply, sewers, storm water drains, community baths and latrines paving and widening of existing lanes and street lighting. The 7th Plan aims at coverage of about 9 million slum-dwellers with an outlay of Rs. 269.55 crores. As per the reports received during 1986-87 19.17 lakhs slum-dwellers have been covered in various States/UTs.

Demand of the MMTC for reduction in Import duties on steel

1159. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Liaison Committee on Steel of the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation has asked for immediate Government action to reduce duties on steel imports, failing which, the Corporation has threatened to curtail imports; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government on the suggestion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) The Central Liaison Committee of the Minerals & Metals Trading Corporation of India Limited (MMTC), in its meeting held on 22-1-1988, resolved that Government be approached for suitable duty adjustments so that the landed price of imported iron and steel items does not exceed the limit of 10 per cent over the corresponding domestic prices.

(b) Import duty structure is decided taking into account all relevant facts. The suggestion in the resolutions would be kept in view while proposals for duty adjustment are formulated.

Subletting of Government accommodation in Delhi

1160. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the large-scale subletting of Government accommodation in the Capital; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken to stop the malpractice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) On the basis of the periodical inspection being conducted by the Dte. of Estates some instances have come to the notice and action is being taken as per rules.

Starvation deaths in Orissa

1161. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there were 642 starvation deaths in Koraput District of Orissa since March last;

(b) whether it is also a fact that 90 per cent of the people who died of starvation belong to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to prevent starvation deaths?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.